

# Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

January 28, 2021 | Vol. 42, No. 40 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

CHESTERFIELD

## New Hingham offers free pre-K

By Peter Spotts

The 2021-2022 school year is already setting up plans to improve on family services as New Hingham Elementary School is pleased to announce its pre-K program will be no cost to families and doubling in size.

Principal Jesse McMillan said the school is excited to be able to increase the program and its accessibility by removing the cost barrier. He said the previous cost of approximately \$6,300 per student deterred some families from expressing interest.

“I’m very excited about this. We are going to be offering tuition free pre-kindergarten. This is the first time our school will be able to do this,” McMillan said.



New Hingham Elementary School will be launching free pre-K five days a week for 30 children at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Photo by Shelby Macri

“We experienced a number of concerns with tuition-based pre-kindergarten... In many instances, I end up providing a significantly reduced or no cost option. This tuition free

pre-k is going to provide significantly more opportunities for families in Chesterfield and Goshen.”

In past years, the school has had one pre-K class for

15 children. Starting next year, two classes will be able to accommodate 30 children. The school has already

PRE-K, page 6

CHESTER

## Selectmen vote for public comment

By Peter Spotts

The Selectboard voted to reinstitute public comments for their meetings while they are meeting virtually during its meeting on Monday, Jan. 25.

The board previously had reservations about allowing public comment in the remote setting, but Chairman Barbara Huntoon said she reflected on the issue and lobbied to put it on the agenda with guidelines in place.

“I think its fine to include comments as long as people identify themselves, give us their address, and we have this thing as a host called the mute button. If

VOTE, page 5

WORTHINGTON

## Dental insurance added for town

By Peter Spotts

The town is picking up the bulk of the tab to increase town employee insurance benefits to include dental coverage, as voted by the Selectboard on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

The town looked at several payment coverage options with the board electing for the ton to pay 75% of the premiums, which is estimated to cost \$12,825 annually if the five employees on the individual health and plan and 10 employees on the family health

INSURANCE, page 7

FIXING DEFACEMENT



Jeff Penn and Chet Bret clean the new sign for the Chester-Blandford State Forest Parking Area after it was vandalized last week. For more information, see letter to the editor on page 4.

Submitted photos by Meredyth Babcock



Liz Massa cleans the Jacob's Ladder Trail Sign along Route 20 after it was vandalized as well.

WILLIAMSBURG

## Public outreach details safety complex plans

By Peter Spotts

The Public Safety Complex is ready to begin outreach to residents with information on the final three plans for a public safety complex, which will require a vote at a special town meeting to ultimately approve one and send it to the ballot box for all town voters to judge.

The Owner's Project Manager Steering Committee finalized details for starting the outreach process last Thursday, Jan. 21, as they don't want to miss this year's construction season due to concerns that after this year's price window, the project might become financially impossible.

However, the committee also needs to make sure the meeting can be held safely with a large enough crowd, so residents don't feel something is being snuck through with the minimum votes needed.

“To push through with

a very small quorum might come back to bite us later because it could be viewed as us forcing something through,” Chairman Jim Ayres said. “We don't feel the town can risk going another year because then the project might not be viable in any scenario.”

While the Selectboard could reduce the town quorum from 60 to 25, the committee is looking at alternative, safe ways to hold a STM for residents to feel comfortable coming to vote. The OPMSC is currently targeting the first week of April for a STM vote, where everyone may not be vaccinated yet, and will be looking into the possibilities of having an outdoor tent like last year's Annual Town Meeting or what would be required to make the Anne T. Dunphy Gym a safe meeting location.

“I bought six air purifiers and I know the school

OUTREACH, page 9

BLANDFORD

## Julius Hall Road access a concern

By Mary Kronholm

Cemetery Commissioner and Julius Hall Road resident Peter Sparks met with the Select Board Monday evening to discuss yet again access issues to the portion of the road that allows entre to the Warfield Cemetery.

Sparks met with the board in March 2019, having received a citation from the Massachusetts State Police for vehicular trespass. Springfield Water and Sewer Commission hires the State Police to patrol their property.

ACCESS, page 10



PAGE 2

Becket.....12	Chesterfield.....6	Hilltowns.....2, 3	Opinion.....4, 5
Blandford.....10	Classifieds.....11	Huntington.....3	Public Notices.....9
Business Directory.....3	Cummington.....6	Middlefield.....3	Williamsburg.....8
Chester.....5	Goshen.....3	Montgomery.....12	Worthington.....7



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 7 8 6



HILLTOWNS

Rail plan advocates planning next step in long process

By Michael Harrison

REGION — Now that they’ve had a chance to digest MassDOT’s extensive feasibility study of a proposed passenger rail link connecting Pittsfield to Boston, including stops in Chester, Palmer, and Springfield, the Rail Stop Steering Committee is planning its next course.

The town-appointed committee met recently to discuss the study and set priorities, including how to prod state and federal officials not already on-board to start acting on the project. One major issue on which all those in the meeting seem to agree is the study vastly underestimates the number of riders it would attract – a critical component of the cost benefit analysis that determines if a project is eligible for federal funding.

That’s a complaint committee members and others made after a draft study – the report’s predecessor – was released a few months prior. They made those feelings known and MassDOT appears to have acknowledged it in the final report, which concludes that further study is justified.

Wary of the slow pace of government and a historic reluctance to invest in large scale infrastructure programs, committee members want to seize any momentum created by the MassDOT study.

“We have to keep pushing it forward so it’s on their radar,” committee Chair Ben Hood said.

“Sometimes they have money and you have to ask for it. I always hoped they would want to invest in [transportation infrastructure].”

According to the report, “the study has entailed a comprehensive civic engagement process involving residents, the study’s Advisory Committee – a group comprised of individuals representing diverse perspectives from Pittsfield to Boston, and other stakeholders in a series of meetings and through online interaction. This included cooperative development of the following goals for the project:

- Provide better transportation options to and from Western Massachusetts
- Support economic development throughout the East – West rail corridor
- Improve the attractiveness of Western Massachusetts as an affordable place to live
- Reduce the number of automobile trips along the corridor
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air quality impacts from transportation

It also shares many of the same conclusions as advocates of the plan, including members of the steering committee and Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop.

“MassDOT recognizes that a robust transportation system is essential to providing residents, businesses, and visitors with mobility to satisfy their economic, personal, and recreational needs. Passenger rail transportation can be an important component of a multi-modal transportation system that increases travel options and reduces greenhouse gas emissions,” the report states.

The report also says that “Fast and frequent passenger rail service in the East-West Rail Corridor could enhance mobility and connectivity for Corridor communities, provide residents and stakeholders with additional travel options, and catalyze new economic opportunities, such as development around stations. Improved connectivity among job centers and better mobility for potential workers could increase employment opportunities for workers and expand the talent pool available to employers by better linking the western, central, and eastern regions of the Commonwealth with each other and with a broader travel market.”

There are three final alternatives in



Advocates of a passenger train line connecting Pittsfield to Boston with stops in Chester, Palmer, and Springfield found some things they liked, and some things they didn’t, in MassDOT’s recently released study.

Courtesy photo

the study, which carries the weight of a \$1 million investment by the state and does back up at least some of the advocates’ claims of the benefits the rail line would provide. All of the alternatives include depots in Palmer and Springfield.

Still, it did not offer the robust endorsement some hoped for.

“It’s not what we wanted, but it didn’t close the door,” Hood said.

Now, he said, the committee needs to focus on “thinking about how this affects Palmer.”

Committee member and Palmer Town Planner Linda Leduc isn’t completely satisfied, but she took away some positives.

“It’s an interesting study,” she said.

“It was limited in scope [but] it needed to be done to gets us to the next phase of engineering and construction. MassDOT is trying to move us out of the planning stage. In Palmer, we did all the things we needed to do to get in all the alternatives, which is a great result.”

Like others, Leduc contests the study’s estimate of ridership and said it’s critical to present accurate numbers that will allow the project to become eligible for federal funding – a high bar. She remains convinced MassDOT does not project a realistic figure and that taking a second look – as MassDOT calls for in the study – will reveal a more favorable cost benefit assessment.

“One thing I thought was interesting is this traditional assessment did not include an extensive look into cost benefit,” Leduc said.

“The position of the state to better itself with the federal calculation – which we fall very short of getting any federal money – we need to raise that. We have a true benefit from the rail stop that can [improve] that calculation.”

Costing upwards of \$1 billion, the project is likely to face steep opposition by state and federal budget hawks, necessitating the need, Leduc and other committee members said, to lobby lawmakers who have not already pledged their support. U.S. Rep. Richard Neal said he’s for creating the passenger line. Leduc and Hood both noted that President Joe Biden could be a likely ally.

Unlike assistance with road and air projects, municipal rail construction is not typically earmarked for federal funding, Leduc said.

“Not a single state in the country gets federal assistance for a rail project,” she said.

“The only way to get federal funding is to get an increase in our benefit cost and potentially get that federal calculation viewed differently. Cost will be a big problem moving forward. We need to have conversations with our federal legislators. Joe Biden historically has been supportive of rail, so that’s all good.”

repurposed to create new one, she suggested.

“The station that I’m in right now – is that something that can be discussed?” Lamothe asked,

“We haven’t been able to get down to those nitty gritty details,” Leduc said.

“Is it time? I think it could be. It might be time for the town to spend some money to [study and] narrow down the best location.”

“As far as location of the platform, that’s something the town and engineers have to figure out,” Anne Miller said.

“It can go a lot of different ways. Palmer may not be in position to do that. I think working out the location is something we need to do in advance so the federal government doesn’t come in and say ‘no, it should go here.’”

Miller is amenable to the idea of creating a Palmer depot in or around the old one and she noted that Steaming Tender, opened by Lamothe’s parents, acquired property around the restaurant.

“I think that should be part of the conversation,” Miller said.

“This is something I think we need to put together soon – ASAP,” Lamothe said.

“We have to show MassDOT we’re ready for this. They don’t know our town. We have to put it in place for them and say here’s the solution and maybe give them a second option.”

Palmer Town Council President Lorinda Baker, who also serves on the committee, said east-west rail advocates might have an inside track with the Biden administration – Buttigieg. She said she heard the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., who ran for president in 2020, is at least an acquaintance, if not a friend, of Lesser.

Lesser referenced Buttigieg in his statement:

“The study comes at the right moment given President-Elect Biden’s long history of infrastructure advocacy, and his passion for train transportation in particular, along with his nominee to be Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg,” Lesser said.

**Setting Priorities**

While the study presents various scenarios of how and where actual construction would begin, the committee members all agree that the Springfield phase should get priority. The study itself called it a “worthwhile starting point.” Hood and Miller sent a letter recently to Baker and Mass. Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack asking for it.

“Indeed, the need for expanded rail service between the three largest cities in the Commonwealth should take priority, especially when there is almost no train service at present between two of them,” they said in the letter.

“Worcester and Springfield are the 2nd and 4th largest cities in New England. Worcester has a metropolitan area population of 947,404, and Springfield has a metropolitan area population of 697,382.... It is time for the Commonwealth to fill in the gaping hole in New England train service, between Springfield and Worcester. There is no need for more study, since the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative (2016) already proposed a reasonable service plan for this corridor, vetted by a Tier 1 Environmental Assessment that found minimal or no impacts.

“The NNEIRI preferred alternative service plan includes 8 round-trip trains per day serving Boston-Framingham-Worcester-Palmer-Springfield-Hartford-New Haven. MassDOT should prioritize development and implementation of a plan to run 8 round-trip trains per day serving Worcester-Palmer-Springfield, timed to connect seamlessly with CTrail



HILLTOWNS

Check out Kellogg in February

RUSSELL — Get carried away reading books written by Steven Kellogg during the month of February at the Russell Public library.

Kellogg writes interesting stories with such exaggeration and creates whimsical illustrations for all to enjoy. The library has two new plushie mas-

cots recommending “A Penguin Pup for Pinkerton,” a hilarious adventure about how Pinkerton wants to adopt his own penguin pup. Read the book to find out what happens.

The library mascots will be updating young readers with what book should be read next. Stay tuned.

Police Chief to be sworn in Feb. 1

Newly appointed Chester Blandford Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas will be sworn in on Monday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m. Weidhaas was hired on Jan. 20.

The Selectboard cleared plans for the event with Board of Health Chairman Elizabeth Massa and are looking forward to being able to celebrate the momentous occasion.

“It’s a big deal, I know, when officers become chiefs,” said Town Administrator Kathe Warden. “I’d like to do a swearing in ceremony for her.”

The ceremony will be held at Chester Town Hall with a maximum of 40 guests. The event will be invite only; for more information visit townofchester.net.

HUNTINGTON

NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

In our reading for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Mark 1:21-28, invites us to wonder about the power of words to liberate boundaries and restore relationships. Zoom Morning worship will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Congregation by Zoom.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at “Norwich Hill” for updates, information and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchof-huntington@gmail.com.

RAIL

from page 2

service at Springfield, with bus service at Palmer to UMass/Amherst, and with MBTA Commuter Rail service at Worcester.

“This first phase of a phased approach to East-West passenger rail would address the greatest need, which

is to connect Springfield to Worcester and Boston. This first phase would have an added advantage that it could utilize the detailed work already done as part of the NNEIRI study, as well as the findings and recommendations of the East-West Passenger Rail Study.”

FOLLOWING THE PATH



The West branch of the Swift River winds its way along the unfrozen portion of the stream center.

Photo by Shelby Macri

GOSHEN

COA to host Valentine’s lunch Feb. 9

GOSHEN — The Goshen COA is offering a curbside valentine luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 9. The menu will be roast pork dinner or grilled chicken breast prepared by the Spruce Corner Restaurant. Dessert will be from Red’s Bakery. Serving time will be from 11:30 a.m. to noon and participants are asked to contribute a \$5 donation. These meals are provided for Goshen residents. If someone is unable to pick up their meal, plans can be made for delivery. Please make a reservation by calling Evelyn at 413-268-3316.



MIDDLEFIELD

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available. The menu on Wednesday, Feb.3, is turkey ala king, steamed green beans, roasted sweet potatoes, rye bread, and fig bar.


BUSINESS DIRECTORY



**George**  
**PROPANE INC.**  
**PROPANE GAS**  
**PLUMBING • HEATING**  
**(413) 268-8360**  
**TOLL FREE 1-800-464-2053**  
Family Owned & Operated  
3 Berkshire Trail West (Route 9), P.O. Box 102, Goshen, MA 01032  
[www.georgepropane.com](http://www.georgepropane.com)



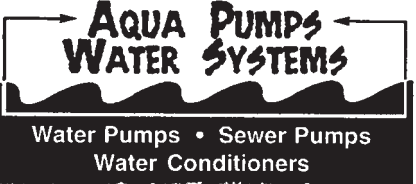
**WHITING**  
**ENERGY FUELS**  
**Heating Oil & Diesel**  
[whitingenergy.com](http://whitingenergy.com)  
300A KING ST., NORTHAMPTON  
584-3500  
11 CLEVELAND RD., DALTON  
1-800-722-0014



**DOWN TO EARTH**  
**EXCAVATING INC**  
Highly Regarded Professionals: Complete Site Work,  
Septic Development and Repairs. Fully insured.  
**413+667+5269**  
Paul & Randy LaPointe, Owners   Huntington, Mass.




**Dale's Structural**  
**& Carpentry**  
Home Improvement • Additions • Restorations • Remodeling  
Timber Frame Homes   Kitchen & Baths  
Residential   Drywall • Paint • Trim Work  
Seasonal Homes & Camps   Windows • Doors  
Garage Repairs   Decks & Stairs  
Carriage & Colonial Barns   Interior & Exterior Finishes  
**Structural Repairs - Wood - Masonry**  
Sagging Floors • Beams • Sill Timbers • Columns • Termites Damage  
Foundation Repairs • Piers & Footings • Chimney Rebuilds  
**413-667-3149**



**Water Pumps • Sewer Pumps**  
**Water Conditioners**  
**46 Pitcher Street**   **Donald Washburn**  
**Montgomery, MA 01085**   **862-3301**

**Kirke R. Henshaw, Inc.**  
Water Well Drilling, Water Pump Sales & Service



Water Testing   System Evaluations  
Water System Repairs   Hydrofracture to Increase Flow

**800-232-4725 • Fax 413-296-4565**  
**Charles R. Henshaw**  
130 Cummington Rd., W. Chesterfield, MA • 413-296-4725



**Hilltown**  
**Cleaning Services**  
Established in 1982 • House Cleaning Plus  
Carol Labonte  
Paul Labonte  
Carpet & Upholstery Steam Cleaned  
Wood Floors, Waxed & Buffed  
No Wax Floors, Stripped & Refinished  
Hauling Trash • Appliance Removal • Pressure Washing  
Gutters Cleaned Out • Cleaning Out Cellars & Attics  
P.O. Box 244   **Phone: (413) 238-5966**  
Worthington, MA 01098   **Fax: (413) 238-0459**



**• Tune Ups**  
**• Installations**  
**• Oil Tanks**  
**Jeff's**  
**Oil Burner Service**  
**Huntington, Massachusetts**  
Office **413.667.0245**  
Cell **413.530.7037**  
[jeffoilburnerservice@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffoilburnerservice@hotmail.com)

FEED • PET SUPPLIES • CLOTHING • COAL  
WOOD PELLETS • WILD & CAGED BIRDSEED  
POOL SUPPLIES • MOTOR OILS • FENCING  
LAWN & GARDEN SUPPLIES • FERTILIZER

**GATEWAY FARM & PET**



**59 RUSSELL ROAD, HUNTINGTON, MA 01050**  
**1-413-667-2279**   M-F 8am-5pm  
Sat. 8am-4pm  
TARA GRENIER • PAUL GRENIER

**Paul's**  
**Plumbing & Heating**



**238-0303**  
PAUL GRAHAM  
Mass. License 23299

**ARCHITECT**  
**JEFFREY SCOTT PENN**  
77 Worthington Road, Huntington, MA 01050  
Tel. 413w-667-5230  
fax. 413-667-3082  
Email: [jpsped@verizon.net](mailto:jpsped@verizon.net)  
new construction, renovation,  
historic preservation

**Contact**  
**John Baskin**  
**to advertise at**  
**413-695-4901**  
**or email:**  
[jbaskin@turley.com](mailto:jbaskin@turley.com)



OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

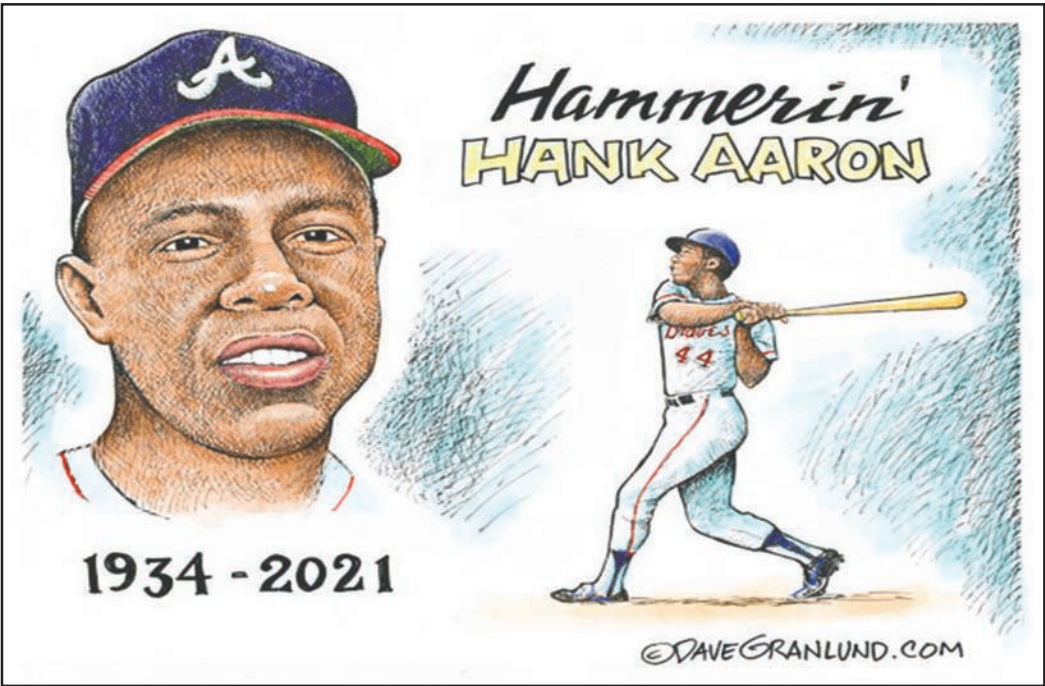
Hike photos chance for new adventures

I am a recent subscriber and enjoy getting the paper in the mail. I used to just pick it up every now and then, but we enjoy getting it every week.

One thing I really enjoy are the photos from hikes in our area. My husband and I love to be outdoors and are always interested in new places to explore. I wish that you would put trail information alongside these photos displays so that readers could get and find the trails pictured.

Thank you for your time and for keeping up with a local newspaper.

Sarah Madden  
Huntington



Fake news fuels divisive rhetoric

*This letter is in response to “Why people (actually) hate Trump,” The Country Journal, Jan. 21.*

Actually, Brian, it was the Democrats rhetoric that will go down in history as divisive. The Paris Climate agreement was costing the American tax payer Billions of dollars and getting nothing for it. As like the UN, we were paying the lion’s share of the bill. As for the coal mines, you just don’t put people out of work at the drop of a hat. Plus, that coal was going to exports to under privileged nations. That is low sulfur coal. Also, Biden just signed a executive order putting 11,000 Americans out of work, on the Keystone XL pipeline and hurt our Canadian friends.

Yes, President Trump did roll back regulations that were stifling business from growth. The climate controls were still in effect. As far as not working congress, it was not Trump who refused to work with congress, it was congress that refused to work with him on anything. The criticizer was actually the democratic house that attacked Trump.

I can go on and on the fact that is fake news. It is a fact that our news is censored. Case in point, the peaceful protests this past summer that turned into riots, we did not hear about it in local news. All we heard was

about the pandemic — ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, MSNBC, all of them hardly reported on them. The democrats never commented on them. Richard Neal never commented on them Joe Biden didn’t ether. So, they must have been supportive of them. As a lot of us see it. As for Jan. 6, President Trump asked, “If you go to the Capital to protest please keep it peaceful and respectful.” Then, Antifa came and all hell broke loose. It has been proven that Antifa is backed by some serious money, and ACLU lawyers, who got the rioters out of jail.

What happened in France, more fake news. President Trump never said they were suckers. That came from a reporter from the New York Times. Hiding the Navy Destroyer John McCain, that was the Navy’s choice not President Trumps choice. As for John McCain, he was not a war hero in the true sense of a war hero. He was recognized for his strength and perseverance, which President Trump did recognize. John McCain did vote against some of Trumps policy’s, there is the bump in the road in their relationship.

More fake news on the coronavirus thing. During the first impeachment lie, President Trump was warning us about a new virus coming out of China. That was in December

of 2019. Of course, the fake news media wanted only impeachment news, hoping for the demise of President Trump. Remember in January of 2020 Trump stopped incoming air traffic from China? Then the fake news media created panic, by telling people to stock up for the shutdown. That was when panic buying started. Also, that is when the democratic house went into hiding and left it up to President Trump to deal with the pandemic. He did make some mistakes, but over all he did pretty good with no help from the left or congress as a whole. Biden went into his cellar. Then when President Trump came down with the virus, he used an experimental vaccine to combat the virus, and it worked. He became a test person for us.

I do agree with you there are good and bad on both sides of the aisle. Our real problem is the media. They do not tell the whole truth. But they are controlled by big money, and do what suits them to sell news. An example, a white man being shot by police is not newsworthy, whereas policemen shooting a black man is. You see race does sell news. They really don’t care that it is decisive as long as it sells.

Ted Cousineau  
Blandford

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor should be 500 words or less in length. We require letter writers to include his or her name, town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Mail letter to Country Journal, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or mail your letter to: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).

\$12.50 Each

Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to [newspapers.turley.com/photo-request](http://newspapers.turley.com/photo-request)

ISSN NO. 0747-2471

TARGETED MARKETING

LOCAL RESULTS

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.newspapers.turley.com

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

BARRE GAZETTE

COUNTRY JOURNAL

CHICOPEE REGISTER

THE JOURNAL REGISTER

THE LUDLOW REGISTER

QUABOAG CURRENT

THE SENTINEL

THE SUN

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

TOWN REMINDER

WARE RIVER NEWS

A volunteer’s heartache

As I drove into the Chester Blandford State Forest Parking area, to capture a photo for a press release, my spirits fell seeing the front of our new kiosk, made possible through a Mass Trails Grant and hours of community involvement, covered with graffiti.

As the members, who had collaborated on this effort, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, W&S Westfield River Committee and Highlands footpath members gathered, we were all mystified by the damage. However, within minutes this hearty community group was thinking about solutions, how to clean the sign, and ways to improve the public’s knowledge of and interaction with our wild places.

We hope community members continue to enjoy and protect these beautiful places and join us in being stewards of them. Over this past summer, I have seen families

bringing reusable containers to eliminate trash, couples following directional signs, so they don’t trample vegetation, and others helping improve the trails we love with simple maintenance. I draw upon these positive memories when I am affronted by thoughtless pointless damage, like we found at the Kiosk.

As I drove home, another sign highlighting the Jacob’s Ladder Trail is also spray-painted but there, a community member and active trail enthusiast Liz Massa, cleaning rag in hand, removing the blemish. I stopped and we worked together to set it right. I want to thank all of you who take the time and energy to protect and enhance our incredible wild lands and water.

We will not let pointless acts of vandalism distract us from the work and delight of volunteering for our community.

Meredyth Babcock  
Becket

Corrections policy

If you notice a factual error in our pages, please let us know, so that we can set the record straight. Email information to [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com), or call us at 413-283-8393. Corrections will be printed in the same section where the error originally occurred.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Country Journal

The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

PATRICK H. TURLEY

CEO

KEITH TURLEY

President

EDITOR

Peter Spotts

[pspotts@turley.com](mailto:pspotts@turley.com)

STAFF WRITER

Shelby Macri

[smacri@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

ADVERTISING SALES

John Baskin

[jbaskin@turley.com](mailto:jbaskin@turley.com)

SOCIAL MEDIA

@ Country Journal

WEB

[countryjournal.turley.com](http://countryjournal.turley.com)

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.



# OPINION

## HILLTOWN HISTORY

### The Name Game

By Anne Sabo Warner

My sister Marian was born in the Snake House. Now that I have your attention, I assure you the house was not full of snakes; the name came from a quartz formation on a rock. The building was located on Route 9 West, just passed Ball Road on the right. It burned in 1972 and has been replaced by another dwelling. The rock was destroyed by a highway project in the 1950s. With Goshen’s abundance of rocks, stones and ledges, it’s surprising that more landmarks aren’t named accordingly. The Whale Inn was named for a stone that resembled a whale’s tail; a summer camp on East Street was simply called The Rock.

Goshen is a popular name. One website lists 41 cities, towns and townships in the United States named Goshen. It is well-known that Goshen comes from the Bible; the Egyptians allotted a place called Goshen to Israelites so they could graze their sheep. It is also called the “land of milk and honey,” which refers to the promised land of Jewish tradition. Today’s Goshen, MA was part of Chesterfield, which was part of the original land grant township New Hingham. This is appropriately the name of the modern consolidated school in

Chesterfield. Lithia was named much later in 1898 when a post office was opened there on a triangle of land surrounded by Route 9 (the Berkshire Trail) and forks of Spruce Corner Road. The story goes that the name of Road Island Post Office was suggested and turned down. The name Lithia was accepted; it is based on the lithium ore spodumene which was found nearby in the famous mineral deposits on the Barrus Farm. Interestingly, a form of beryl found there has been named Goshenite. The Lithia Post Office closed in 1985.

Main roads were named for points of the compass — East Street, South Chesterfield Road, and West Street (Chesterfield Road in my day). There is no North Street. Cape Street would qualify for that name, and an early school there was called the North School. Cape Street (Road) was named a north-south axis division “highway” of Chesterfield town in early surveys before Goshen existed. Presumably, the name came from early settlers from the Cape. Side roads were named for original settlers, and a few have the name of more modern families, such as Bissell Road and Sears Road. Sears Road was originally Potash Brook Road or Potash Road. This name was not uncommon in the hilltowns because potash was once an important

industry. The name refers to potassium compounds that were produced by leaching wood ashes and concentrating the leachate at high heat in large iron pots = pot-ash. The product was so valuable in certain manufacturing processes that stands of hardwood trees were reduced to ashes for it.

Using family names for parts of town can get complicated. For example, the Dressers and Mollisons whose descendants live here today really moved around. James and Orintha Mollison first farmed on the hill above the cemetery and the road there is still called Mollison Hill Road. In 1881 they moved to the farm across from the church on Main Street, where they lived for thirty years. I remember old timers still calling it “Grammy Mollison’s” even after the house had been torn down. The building material was salvaged and became my father’s barn. In 1978, my father gave the barn to the Barruses and they took it down and salvaged the building material again!

James and Orintha’s son John purchased what is now the Eldred farm, so the hill west to Webster’s Brook is still called Mollison Hill to this day. Henry Dresser lived there before, so it was not unusual to hear old timers call it Dressers Hill. But the Dressers

originally settled in the south part of town, which is where Dresser Hill Road is located today. Reuben Dresser built a millpond there which, of course, was called Dresser’s Pond. It is now Hammond’s Pond. However, Dresser’s Beach is on Highland Lake because the Dressers eventually ended up on Main Street. Frank Dresser had a garage there, and his son Francis more recently a television and radio repair service. At one time Frank’s mother Alice Pierce Dresser owned the Snake House and rented it to my mother and father, and that is where my sister was born.

*Anne Sabo Warner is a former Goshen resident who currently resides in Enfield, CT.*



# CHESTER

## Theatre partners with Hancock Shaker Village for three show season

CHESTER — The Chester Theatre Company is thrilled to announce that CTC is partnering with Hancock Shaker Village for the 2021 summer season under the name Chester@Hancock.

CTC will be staging a three-show season outdoors under a tent on the grounds of the treasured Berkshires institution. This is a temporary change in location for the safety of audiences, performers, staff and crew due to restrictions caused by COVID-19. The CTC will return to the Town Hall Theatre in Chester in 2022.

The Village has the all the amenities necessary to provide a comfortable, enjoyable, and safe experience for everyone. Make a day of it — grab a bite at the café, take a walk on the trails, and tour the 20 historic buildings on the campus (separate admission required).

“I’m thrilled by our partnership,”

said Producing Artistic Director Daniel Elihu Kramer. “[It] will offer a remarkable experience to our audiences, and an opportunity for patrons of each of our organizations to learn more about the other. Hancock Shaker Village is a treasure of our region and a beautiful location in all seasons. I look forward to sharing the summer there with you.”

“We are thrilled to welcome Chester Theatre Company this summer,” added Jennifer Trainer Thompson, director of Hancock Shaker Village. “They’ve found a creative solution to a vexing challenge, and we welcome the opportunity to have outdoor live theater at the Village all summer long.”

The 2021 season will consist of three productions, one each in June, July, and August. Shows and exact dates and times will be announced soon, so stay tuned for more information.

## VOTE

from page 1

someone starts going rogue, I can mute them,” Huntoon said.

Huntoon also recommended putting a three-minute time limit on each individual with comments. Selectman John Baldasaro said he still had concerns about being able to ensure people speaking were in the right frame of mind. He cited past incidents where the board had individuals in person get of control or have been under the influence of alcohol when speaking.

“When we’re in a remote meeting... you don’t know the condition of the person, you don’t know what they’ve been doing,” Baldasaro said. “When it’s face-to-face, you have much more [ability] to observe if that person is in a good state of mind.”

Selectman Richard Holzman said he agreed with points both board members made, but ultimately sided with Huntoon.

“I concede the points both of you are making and I can agree in part with

both of you,” Holzman said. Perhaps it might be an idea to try it for a period of time and see how its working out and reexamine it again. If we’re running into problems with it, we can change it. I think it’s worth a shot to be more inclusive and give an opportunity for people to speak as long as they can follow the time parameters and other requirements as set forth by the chair.”

The board approved the implementation of public comments for the remote meetings with a 2 to 0 vote; Baldasaro abstained. The move led to several resident speaking at the end of the meeting and garnered praise.

“One of the hallmarks of this Board of Selectmen, past practice and best practice, has been to allow for real time interaction between themselves and its citizens,” said resident Bob Daley. “I applaud your actions your vote tonight. You did it for the right reasons and at the right time.”

## Help protect the community with municipal vulnerability preparedness

CHESTER — The town of Chester has joined many other, forward thinking towns across the state in identifying and prioritizing its vulnerabilities and strengths. The changing climate is impacting every corner of the planet. The steps taken to prepare for increasing highwater events, droughts, and habitat loss matter. Taking action now can reduce, not eliminate, the inevitable impacts of the changing climate.

In order to create a plan that reflects the community, the town needs community members in Chester to sign up and

share their knowledge. Sign up and gain access to the interactive map on the town website. If someone prefers sharing their knowledge in person, with a physical map, Mередyth Babcock will be at the Chester Railway Station on Saturday, Jan. 30, and Sunday, Jan. 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at the Chester Visitors Center on Saturday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Questions can be directed to 413-623-2070. This project is made possible through an MVP grant and the skills of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

## Clerk looking for street census returns

CHESTER — The 2021 annual street census was mailed out on Jan. 1 to each household in Chester. As of Jan. 26, the town has had approximately 52% returned. If someone didn’t receive one, or if got lost in the house, a blank printable one is available on the Town website. Residents can also call 413-354-6603 and request another one. Please, when leaving a message, repeat the phone number of the caller twice.

Please list everyone who lives in the house, sign and return to Town Clerk 15 Middlefield RD Chester, MA 01011. Residents also have the option to drop it in the black box outside Town Hall. This box is very secure and is out of the weather.

It is important to have an accurate resident count for grants and federal funding. For example, if applying for a grant and towns of 1,200 people get a certain amount and Chester only has 1,000 respond to the census, it could lose a good sum of money even if there are more than 1,250 residents in town.

If someone is a registered voter, the census keeps them active on the voting list. Residents who don’t return the street census by April 15 become inactive on the voting list, which will require more paperwork the next time they come to vote. Mass. General Laws Chapter 51, section 4 mandates an annual street list-

ing of residents as of Jan. 1, of each year. Please update and correct the information provided by adding, deleting, or making changes on the form. Please check for mistakes spelling, birthdates, mailing address. Party affiliation cannot be changed on this form. To change a political party, visit mass.gov or call and request an application.

Dog License are available and all dogs six months or older must be licensed in the town. Dog license applications were in each letter; please fill out and return. In order to receive a 2021 dog license, the town must have a copy of a dog’s rabies vaccination and copy of spayed or neutered certificate. Some Veterinaries mail them to the town clerk; call to see if the town has one or if one needs to be sent in. All dogs must be properly licensed by March 31. If someone purchased a two- or three-year license last year, they are fine. Any questions can be directed to the clerk at 413-354-6603.

Nomination papers for the town election will be available on Feb.1. Voters must pick them up in person so if they are running for office. Contact the clerk’s office to make an appointment to get the paperwork.

The letter in the street census has all important dates; please check and mark a home calendar so none are missed.



CUMMINGTON

FROSTED MEMORIAL



The Cummington Veterans Memorial in front of the Community House is blanketed in snow, but its flags stand tall in the winter sunset.

Photo by Shelby Macri

Friday Night Café returns with three new songs

CUMMINGTON — The Friday Night Café has delivering music throughout the Covid-19 pandemic online until it’s safe to gather together again and is back this month with three new tracks.

The first piece for this month’s theme “New” is a cover of the Beatles song “I’ve Just Seen a Face” by One Part Luck. A friend and supported of the Friday Night Café shared her song “News.” Finally, Josh Wachtel has a performance of “The New Do the Boogie Woogie.”

Friday Night Café adopted a “Lo-Fi” approach as many performers have gone the route of live streaming their performances, or making videos, during COVID-19. Those efforts presented an array of technology challenges including slow hilltown internet, lack of gear, lack of knowledge or experience with gear, and watching on screens. Posting the audio files makes it easier to alleviate some of these difficulties. Depending on the flow, one or a few recordings will be sent out on Fridays.

Once again, this is brought to the community by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe that music can be a powerful force for building community. All FNC songs are posted online at [newruraladvocate.com](http://newruraladvocate.com).

Dog licenses due by March 31

CUMMINGTON — Dog licenses are available by mail through the Town Clerk. Please send the following info along with a check made out to the Town of Cummington to Town Clerk at P.O. Box 128, Cummington, MA 01026, or the information and check can be dropped off in the drop box located on the east side in the back of the community house near the back entrance. licenses are due by March 31, 2021.

information required includes an updated rabies vaccination, name of dog, breed, color, age, new/renewal, spayed female, neutered male, name of owner, phone number, and address.

The cost is \$6 for spayed and \$8 for not spayed. Please have the check made out to the Town of Cummington.

CHESTERFIELD

PRE-K

from page 1

received more than 40 applications and will continue accepting applications until March 1. While the majority of applicants are from Chesterfield and Goshen, McMillan said there have been several from out of district as well. In addition to increasing capacity, the school is moving from a four-day week to cover Monday through Friday for the first time as well.

“[The application increase] confirms my previous thinking that there are families in our community who are interested, but didn’t pursue the option, particularly due to the cost,” he said. “The staff is excited, and it appears the families are. We’ve received a lot of grateful emails. I’m certainly glad we’re able to provide this to our community.”

When it comes to vetting applications, McMillan said the school will begin reviewing them after the March 1 deadline and start screening families.

lies. Key criteria will include the age of the child, as four-year-olds are getting ready to move to kindergarten the following year, prioritizing families from Chesterfield and Goshen, and considering the needs of the child.



“The acceptance varies from year-to-year because you want to create the best cohort based on student needs,” McMillan said. “From a school’s perspective, it also gives us the opportunity to provide early intervention for students. When we have the opportunity to bring more students into our program, that allows us to address a number of students’ needs — academic, social, emotional — and provide targeted intervention.”


The program will be fitting into the existing school budget. McMillan explained prior years’ tuition would go into a pre-K revolving account, but it hasn’t been active the past several years due to the school making accommodations for families who couldn’t afford it. The budget for the pre-K teachers is mostly covered in the budget already as well. McMillan will be presenting which line items he plans to reduce to cover the remainder of the costs, which is about \$10,000 per teacher.

“We’re not losing a significant revenue in any shape or form. It has been a very low revenue source over the past several years,” he said. “The second teacher salary is already a part of our budget. We’ve had a floater teacher a number of years so that position will be the second pre-K teacher.”

He added, “I’m working on figuring out which line items will be reduced. I’m confident it will not impact student services... There will also be other costs, maintaining a classroom for supplies, but that’s also already a part of our budget and an additional classroom is already accounted for.”

Families interested in applying can do so online at [www.newingham.org](http://www.newingham.org). Applications will be open until March 1 and McMillan hopes to notify families if they’ve been accepted by early April.





**Joy Salvini**  
Broker Associate  
**RE/MAX COMPASS**

Chester Office: 585 Rt. 20  
**(413) 351-5277**  
email: [Joy.Salvini@comcast.net](mailto:Joy.Salvini@comcast.net)

**Experience the JOY of Buying or Selling a Home**

Each office independently owned and operated

**Our advertisers make this publication possible.**

*Let them know you saw their ad in the*

**Country Journal**

**BUY DIRECT AND SAVE \$\$\$**

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN BONE-IN PORK LOIN END CHOPS.....**99¢** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....**\$1.77** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE BONELESS PORKLOIN STUFFED CHOP or ROAST **\$2.44** lb

**SLICED IN OUR DELI**

USDA INSP TURKEY BREAST .....**\$3.99** lb

**IT'S SOUP TIME**

USDA INSP FRESH BEEF SHANKS.....**\$3.99** lb

USDA INSP FROZEN CHICKEN FEET .....**\$2.49** lb

USDA INSP FRESH SOUP CHICKEN (FOWL) .....**\$1.19** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIBEYE WHOLE OR HALF CUT FREE **\$6.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAK **\$3.66** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LAMB SHOULDER CHOPS **\$3.99** lb

**CUSTOMER PICK OF THE WEEK** USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF SHORT RIBS .....**\$6.97** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST TRAY PAK .... **88¢** lb

USDA INSP. IQF FRESH CHICKEN THIGH BONE-IN 10 LB BAG ..... **66¢** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN LEG 1/4s 10 LB BAG ..... **\$2.99** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN GOURMET SLICED WHITE BREAD 16 OZ LOAF ..... **99¢** ea

**90 Meat Outlet**

**90 Avocado St. Springfield**

**413-737-1288**

**www.90meat.com**

**HOURS:** Mon. - Wed. 8-4  
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

**SALE DATES:** 1/28/21 - 2/3/21

**BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE**

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SNOW ON THE TOWN



The Town Offices enjoy a snowy blanket on a sunny, but chilly, January afternoon.

Photos by Shelby Macri



There's still plenty of snow on the ground to enjoy a drive around the hills or along Route 143 to take in the final remnants of a January winter wonderland.



WORTHINGTON

BOH issues positive case protocols, school fully remote thru Feb. 4

WORTHINGTON — The Board of Health has been alerted to several new COVID-19 cases in town. People testing positive and their close contacts have been notified and are following protocols for isolation and self-quarantine.

Please continue to be diligent about wearing masks and maintaining distancing both indoors and out; minimize indoor contacts with people residents don't live with and continue basic hand hygiene and other safety precautions. This applies even if someone has been vaccinated.

Stay home from work if experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms — headache, fever, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue/easy tiring, shortness of breath, loss of appetite, loss of taste and/or smell, cough, vomiting, or diarrhea.

If someone thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19, please wait three to five days and then get tested. Testing sites can be found at [www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing](http://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing).

The state remains in Phase 1 of the vaccination effort with most first responders and direct care providers vaccinated. People who work in congregate care settings or as home care workers are eligible for vaccination starting Monday, Jan. 25. Phase 2 — people over 65 or with comorbidities, other health workers and teachers among others — are anticipated to start around Feb. 1. Resident should contact their health care provider or go to the state site on COVID-19 vaccination to identify eligibility and vaccination sites, [www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine).

R.H. Conwell Elementary school has also moved to a fully remote model until Thursday, Feb. 4 as a result of one member in the school community testing positive. Parents should monitor their child for symptoms and keep them home if they are not feeling well when in-person learning resumes Feb. 4.

Principal/Superintendent Gretchen Morse-Dobosz reminded the community in a statement on the town website that the school is closely adhering to its safety protocols including mask wearing, hand washing, and social distancing, and collaborating with the Board of Health for contact tracing — parents who were in close contact with the community member who tested positive will be notified privately.

"Additionally, we are asking those parents whose students are tested for COVID-19 to please report the results to the school nurse. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community and this information is a critical piece of that puzzle," Morse-Dobosz said. "Please understand that this decision was made in order to keep everyone in our close-knit community as safe as possible. Teachers have all shared their remote learning schedules with you all in anticipation of this possibility down the road, and students will continue to receive all services they are currently receiving while in-person."

For more information, visit [worthington-ma.us](http://worthington-ma.us) or contact Morse-Dobosz at [gmorsedobosz@hr-k12.org](mailto:gmorsedobosz@hr-k12.org).

Returnable drop-off back for business

WORTHINGTON — The town has contracted with Joey Granger to operate the returnable bottle and can shed. Residents can once again leave their returnables in the shed during regular Transfer Station hours.

Let's keep those bottles and cans

out of the waste stream. A large number of returnables have been showing up in the glass and plastic recycle bin. The town now has to pay to recycle those items and by returning them the town saves money on Transfer Station expenses.

INSURANCE

from page 1

plan all pick it up. The plan is open to all eligible town employees at the start of the next fiscal year, July 1.

"I recommended 75%," said Treasurer Kirsten Henshaw said. "Right now, the town pays for 75% of eligible employees' insurance."

Henshaw told the board the town covering 25% would cover 4,268.40 per year and \$8,538.60 at 50% based on the current number of employees on the health insurance plan, and included a couple of local comparisons.

"I used the numbers we currently have for health insurance, assuming everybody would join," Henshaw said. "Windsor pays 80% of their health insurance and dental and vision. Middlefield does the same. Those are my comparables that I was aware of."

"To make it attractive, whatever plan the town chooses would hopefully have more of an incentive for people to sign up," Teacher Chris Clealand said.

Selectman Amy Wang pointed out the dental plan allows people to sign up for the dental and not just health insurance and vice versa, so the numbers may not be exactly the same as the current number of town employees using town health insurance.

"If the town pays it and it pays 75% then it's probably worth it," said Selectman Charley Rose.

The board also discussed a second insurance issue, but no decision was

reached, and it will continue at a future meeting. A concern was raised that under the current system some employees, particularly teachers, can be ready to retire before they are 65, which is when they'd be eligible for Medicare. If they retire before then, there's currently a coverage gap between the retirement year and when they'd get Medicare.

"Because they can start quite young, work for 30 years and not be that old," Administrative Assistant Peggy O'Neal said. "They're asking the town to let them stay on their medical benefits even if they're retired and are not yet eligible Medicare. Its gap coverage is what it is."

The conversation is going to continue at a future board meeting. O'Neal said Henshaw will be looking into how other single school towns handle gap year coverage as well. It's a difficult balance as Worthington is different than other school districts and municipalities.

"We're different than most school district because as district we're one elementary school. It's not like a big enterprise. She's going to look into some other one school towns that are also a district to see what they do," O'Neal said. "A lot of schools are unionized. A lot of municipalities are unionized. We're not. We'd like to continue being non-union, but at the same time be paid a living wage. It's always part of the negotiation."

SUNDOWN IN THE HILLTOWNS



The sunset shines its last few rays of the day through the woods behind the Worthington Fire Department.

Photo by Shelby Macri



Proud publishers of 13 community newspapers

**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.

Call John  
at 413-283-8393  
to advertise your business here

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



**WHALEN INSURANCE**

Protecting you is our only business.

**Auto Home Business**

71 King Street  
Northampton, MA 01060  
413-586-1000 • Fax: 413-585-0401  
[www.whaleninsurance.com](http://www.whaleninsurance.com)

**Whine! Whine!...WHINE!**

There's a lot to whine about these days.  
So, instead of whining, have a glass of wine and unwhine.

- ★ Vin Du Val wines, 750 ml. ....\$4.99 ea
- ★ La Playa wines, 750 ml. ....\$8.99 ea
- ★ Oliver Blueberry Moscato 750 ml. ....\$13.49 ea
- ★ Or 10% OFF Any 2 Bottles Mix and Match

Best Prices in Town • Best Selection • Honest Lottery

**HUNTINGTON LIQUORS**

21 Russell Road, Huntington (413) 667-3201

Not Just Septic Work...

SEPTIC PUMPING

DRAINAGE

SEPTIC SYSTEMS DESIGNED & INSTALLED

GRAVEL & ASPHALT DRIVEWAYS

10% OFF Any Service for Essential Workers

**COOPER EXCAVATING AND TRUCKING INC.**

413-568-3164

Serving Hampden & Berkshire Counties

[WWW.COOPEREXCAVATINGMA.COM](http://WWW.COOPEREXCAVATINGMA.COM)





# Al's Tire & Auto Repair

When it comes to tires we do it all,  
from wheelbarrows to big rigs.

**MOST MAJOR TIRE BRANDS AVAILABLE**  
**Brakes, Shocks, Struts, Front End Repairs & Alignments**  
**Air Conditioning Service**

918 Southampton Road, Westfield, MA 01085  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Mike Morin **562-3391 ~ 562-1704** David Fasser



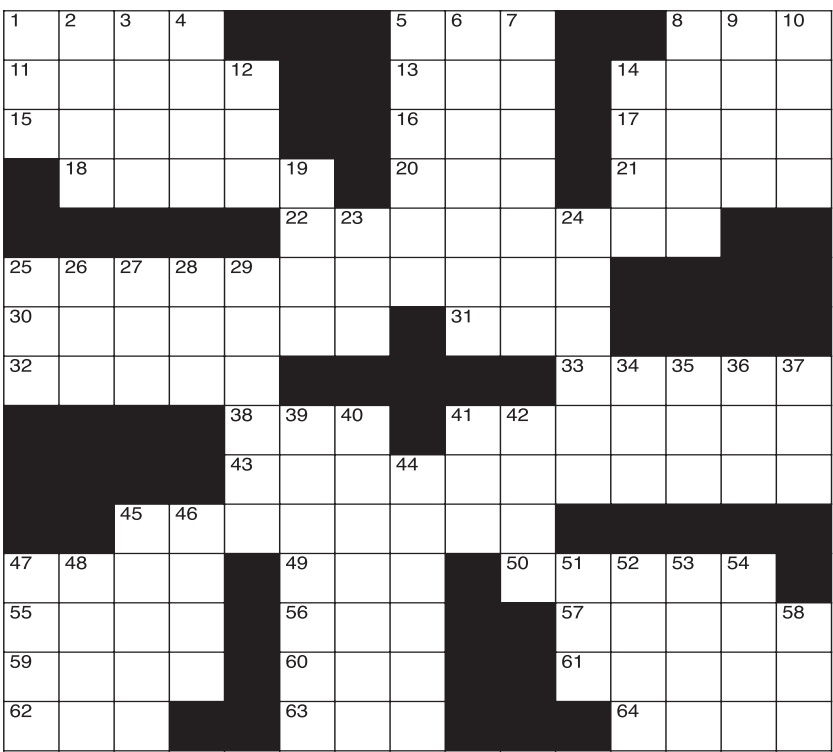
## Richard's

### FUEL & HEATING INC.

Fueling Generations Since 1966

- Locally Owned & Operated for 50 Years
- Oil Customers - 24 Hour Emergency Service & Automatic Delivery Available
- New System Installations - Mitsubishi Electric Diamond Dealer
- Heating Oil Plus - Maximize Energy Dollars: Keep system running Clean

**79 Union St., Rear 2, Easthampton, MA 01027**  
**413-527-0194**  
Open Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am - 4:00 pm



**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Gather a harvest  
5. Federal Republic of Germany  
8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!  
11. "The Little Mermaid"  
13. The common gibbon  
14. Volcanic island in Fiji  
15. Mother of Perseus  
16. Egg cells  
17. Teams' best pitchers  
18. Credit associations  
20. Advance  
21. Hair styling products  
22. Benign tumors  
25. Arriving early  
30. Called it a career  
31. \_\_ Paulo, city  
32. Avoid with trickery  
33. Easter egg  
38. Veterans battleground  
41. Lack of success  
43. Thing that causes disgust  
45. Deep, continuing

sound  
47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea  
49. You might put it in a fire  
50. Partner to "oohed"  
55. Actor Idris  
56. Slippery  
57. Plant of the bean family  
59. One point north of northeast  
60. Patti Hearst's captors  
61. Places to hang clothes  
62. Midwife  
63. Of she  
64. S. Korean statesman

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Cool!  
2. Amounts of time  
3. Aboriginal people of Japan  
4. Popular veggies

5. Wedding accessory  
6. Deep, narrow gorges  
7. Dry cereal  
8. Competitions that require speed  
9. Cain and \_\_  
10. Snake sound  
12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)  
14. Pattern of notes in Indian music  
19. Satisfy  
23. Misfire  
24. Nearsightedness  
25. Indicates before  
26. Increase motor speed  
27. When you hope to get there  
28. Indicates position  
29. Where rockers perform  
34. Substitute  
35. \_\_ juris: of one's own right  
36. Earliest form of modern human in Europe: \_\_-magnon  
37. Adult female bird  
39. Do away with  
40. Lens  
41. Flattened appendage  
42. Post or pillar in Greek temple  
44. A medieval citizen of Hungary  
45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation  
46. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician  
47. Sew  
48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits  
51. Swiss river  
52. Grayish-white  
53. A way to illustrate  
54. College basketball superpower  
58. Midway between south and southeast

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

**ARIES**  
Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, it is not often that you feel compelled to be a people-pleaser, but you've been a lot more cautious about what you say or post online lately. That can be a good thing.

**CANCER**  
Jun 22/Jul 22

You are known for adding your personal touch to everything, Cancer. Just don't push this so far as to have the final word on everything; otherwise, you could ruffle feathers.

**LIBRA**  
Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you are normally upbeat and passive. However, you may have to be a little more forceful if you want to get your point across and be heard in the days ahead.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22/Jan 20

Is there something going on in your life right now that could benefit from a little more investigation, Capricorn? Personal problems may involve delving a little deeper.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, certain things aren't adding up and someone close to you is being rather evasive. You may want to do some investigative work and get to the bottom of the situation.

**LEO**  
Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you're often focused on the bigger picture but don't consider the small details. When financial issues become a concern, you have to learn to scrutinize data.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 24/Nov 22

You don't mind defending your opinions or your ideals, Scorpio. In fact, you are highly skilled at constructive conversation. Your negotiation tactics may be put to the test.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, it seems that for each step you take forward, you move two or three steps back. Break this cycle and develop a contingency plan so you don't miss a beat.

**GEMINI**  
May 22/Jun 21

Even though you detest drama, unless you are careful this week you could put yourself right in the middle of some. Watch your words and actions carefully.

**VIRGO**  
Aug 24/Sept 22

You can't resist helping other people who are close to you, Virgo. However, this week is a time when the roles are reversed. Don't hesitate to accept help.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23/Dec 21

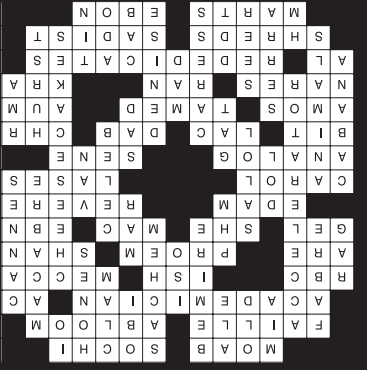
Sagittarius, it is not your job to solve a group issue on your own. This needs to be a democratic process with all opinions included in the discussion. You may act as moderator.

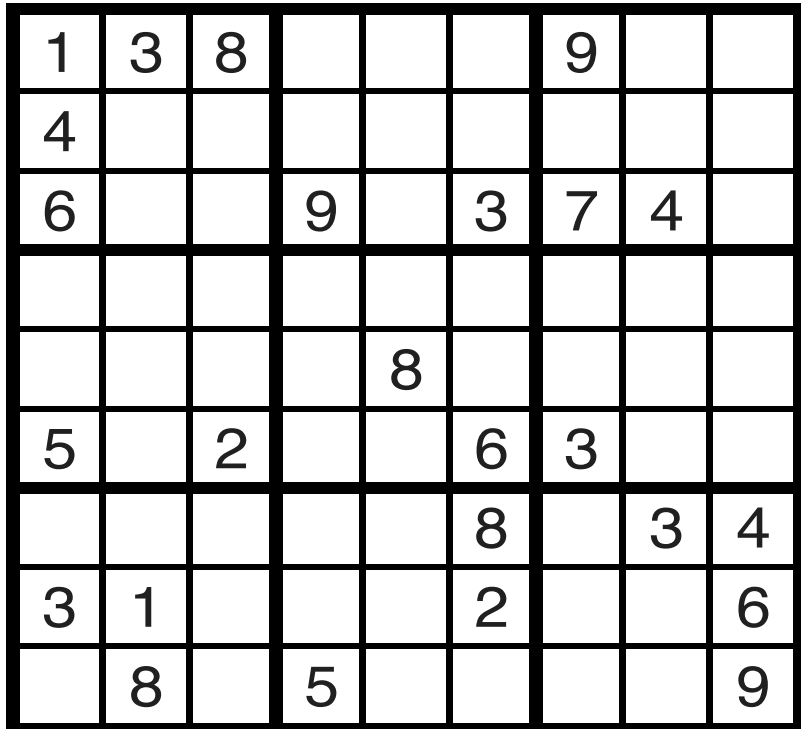
**PISCES**  
Feb 19/Mar 20

The distance between you and someone you love keeps widening, Pisces. Take the time to mend this fence.

# answers

6	7	1	4	8	9	8	2
9	9	8	2	6	7	4	8
4	8	2	8	9	1	7	6
1	8	8	9	7	4	2	6
2	9	9	6	8	8	4	7
7	6	4	1	9	2	8	9
8	4	7	8	1	6	9	2
8	1	9	9	2	8	6	4
9	2	6	7	4	9	8	1





# SUDOKU

**Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

**Fun By The Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

## WESTFIELD AUTO PARTS INC



### AUTO PARTS & SUPPLIES

## NATIONALLY ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE FOR ALL MAKES & MODELS

# WHOLESALE

# RETAIL

- ★ Complete Auto Machine Shop Service
- ★ Engine Rebuilding Of All Kinds
- ★ Authorized Caterpillar Hydraulic Hose Dealer
- ★ Hydraulic Hoses

Call "DALE" 8-12 BIRGE AVE., WESTFIELD

**Dial 568-8944 or 568-1611** FAX # 568-1554

Now stocking Car Quest Filters made by WIX, Amalie Oil, Bailing Twine & Tractor Parts



WILLIAMSBURG

Preparing for COVID-19 vaccinations in town

WILLIAMSBURG — The State of Massachusetts is rolling out the COVID-19 vaccinations in three phases. Each phase has eligibility requirements with groups to be vaccinated in priority order. Currently the state is in Phase 1 and is vaccinating clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers, people in long-term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities, emergency responders, congregate care settings and health care workers.

Phase 2 is scheduled to begin sometime in February and will cover vaccinations for people with two or more health conditions that make them high risk for COVID-19 complications, adults 75 years or older, residents and staff of public and private low income and affordable senior housing, educators, employees who work in retail, foodservice facilities, public works, and transportation, adults 65 years or older, and individuals with one health condition that puts them at high risk.

Phase 3 covers the general public — those not covered in phase 1 or 2 — and is scheduled to begin in April.

At this time, the town is working with state approved regional vaccination sites. As vaccination enters Phase 2 and Phase 3, town officials will communicate with residents eligible under that phase about how best to sign up to get vaccinated. Residents should not sign-up until the state is in the phase under which they are eligible. Residents will be turned away even if they sign up.

Please beware of scam emails, links, and websites regarding vaccinations. For mor information, visit [www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine).

In the meantime, please take care, wear a mask, and maintain social distance. Questions may be directed to Board of Health Chair Donna Gibson at 413-268-7421.

OUTREACH

from page 1

has some too, so we could move into the gym. There are options,” Nardi said.

Another key component will be to minimize the time people have to spend at the meeting, which starts with educating the public before the meeting date so there’s less discussion on the floor of the STM itself. The first step of this will be a newsletter with an overview of the committee’s work and the three options, which is slated to be mailed the first week of February. The committee will be scheduling Zoom meetings, expected to start after the town’s meeting of all boards on Feb. 18, to meet with members of the public and answer all questions pertaining to the project.

The committee has been working since 2013 to narrow down site selection, hire an OPM, and create an initial design for the project all while incorporating public feedback throughout each process. The town voted last February at a STM for a designer to create a plan to renovate the lower level of the Helen E. James School for the PSC, update the school and create a standalone PSC on the property with it, and to remove the HEJ entirely with a new PSC in its place.

Option 1, the partial renovation of the HEJ building for public safety and a vehicle bay for the Fire Department, is estimated to cost \$7.5 million, with \$2.1 million needed to bring the HEJ building up to building code.

Option 2, updating HEJ to stabilize its condition and building a new PSC adjacent to it, is estimated to cost \$6.7 million, with the same \$2.1 million cost to bring it up to code as Option 1.

Option 3, the demolition of HEJ and construction of a new PSC, is the cheapest option at an estimated \$5.1 million. This also removes \$40,000 in annual maintenance the HEJ building requires in addition to the \$2.1 million building code costs in Options 1 and 2. The committee will be recommending the town approve Option 3, as it feels it’s the best opportunity for a well-designed and efficient PSC.

For more information, residents can look for the newsletter mailing in early February and visit the Owner’s Project Manager Steering Committee page on the town website, [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org), for information as it is posted and dates for upcoming public Zoom meetings. Feedback may also be sent to Nardi at 413-268-8418 or [townadministrator@burgy.org](mailto:townadministrator@burgy.org).

COLD WATERS



The East Branch of the Mill River in Williamsburg kept flowing through last week’s cold front despite some partial freezing along its edges.

Photo by Shelby Macri

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampshire Division**  
**15 Atwood Drive**  
**Northampton, MA 01060**  
**(413)586-8500**  
**Docket No. HS21P0026EA**  
**Estate of:**  
**David James Foster**  
**Also Known As:**  
**David J. Foster**  
**Date of Death:**  
**October 23, 2020**  
**INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Karlene M. Foster** of Huntington, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Karlene M. Foster** of Huntington, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.  
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
01/28/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
**50 State Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103**  
**(413)748-7758**  
**Docket No. HD21P0085EA**  
**Estate of: Edward O'Brien**  
**Date of Death: 11/07/2020**  
**CITATION ON PETITION**

**FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **William M O'Brien** of Harwich Port MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.  
The Petitioner requests that: **William M O'Brien** of Harwich Port MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/25/2021**.  
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.  
**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS**

**UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 21, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
01/28/2021

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the *Country Journal* please email [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com).

A TURLEY PUBLICATION

[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

Country Journal

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ARE NOW ONLINE

- Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



BLANDFORD

ICED OVER



The Highway Department is working to remove ice buildup along Russell Stage Road under the Route 143 Bridge.

Photo by Mary Kronholm



The state of the road before the Highway Department began working on it.

Photo courtesy of the Blandford Highway Department

Vaccination clinic planned for residents

BLANDFORD — The Board of Health told the select board Monday evening, Jan. 25, they are planning to have a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic in town for Blandford residents only.

The BOH is in the process of being approved by the State Department of Health to conduct this clinic and one of three hurdles has been successfully completed in the approval process.

The vaccine is free, but there will be an administrative cost which can be passed along to a recipient's private or public insurance. The dates are not firm yet, but the BOH expects to hold clinics beginning sometime in mid to late February on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays, days when the town offices are least busy.

Residents who have internet access will be able to make appointments for vaccination online through PrepMod.

Anyone can contact the BOH at 413-848-4279, ext. 401, and all calls will be returned during business hours.

Precise details for vaccination process are being worked out but what is known is that appointments will be set for five patients in a 20-minute time span at the town hall; everyone will wait in their vehicles until contacted to verify information. There will be an area set aside post inoculation for patients to wait 15 minutes before leaving.

More details will be available as soon as they are available.

Select Board Chair Cara Letendre said she was really glad "we're offering it here" and member Tom Ackley said he thought it was "great that the Board of Health is being pro-active" and member Eric McVey would like to see any additional costs absorbed by the town, if possible.

BOH sponsors Valentine's scavenger hunts

BLANDFORD — February may be the shortest month of the year with only 28 days, but it can also seem to be the longest when considering the weather, the still short daylight hours, and add to that COVID-19 with all its restrictions.

The Board of Health hopes to bring some light-hearted fun to residents. The board-sponsored 28 Days of Valentines Scavenger Hunt for residents.

Starting Monday, Feb. 1, residents can pick up a scavenger hunting form from the Blandford Country Store or the Porter Memorial Library. The form lists streets and roads in town where the board has placed Valentine signs. Each sign will have a symbol or a letter to be matched with the street and when the list

is completed, the symbols and letters will reveal a message.

Designed for family fun, drive through town looking for the signs with red hearts. The signs read, "A Month of Valentines - Spread the Love - Blandford."

Completed forms can be returned to the library where there will be a "special box" according to the Board of Health.

All the scavenger forms must be completed correctly to be entered in a drawing for a chance to win one of five special prizes. Deadline for submission of completed forms is Sunday, Feb. 28, and the drawing will be held at the regular Board of Health meeting on Wednesday, March 3.

Resilient master plan visioning session meets Thursday, Feb. 4

BLANDFORD — The Town is in the process of developing a Resilient Master Plan that will help conservation and development decisions for the next 10 years and beyond.

A long-range vision of the town will provide goals and strategies to guide land use, housing, business growth, public services, open space and resource protection. When finished, the Resilient Master Plan will be adopted by the Planning Board, following an extensive citizen engagement process. Visit blandfordmasterplan.pvpc.org for more information about the Resilient Master Plan.

Every household received a master plan survey along with the annual street list census this year. This is an opportunity for residents to give preference to how the remaining available space can be used, either for housing and business or open space and more conservation

protected land.

The first visioning session with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will be virtual on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. This online event is open to everyone. During the Visioning Session, PVPC staff will introduce the project and engage participants in developing the Resilient Master Plan Vision Statement: an image of the kind of community they want for their future and an agreed-upon basis for action.

The link for the visioning session is available on the town's website, townof-blandford.com, along with a link to an online version of the survey.

For more information, please contact Ken Comia at kcomia@pvpc.org or the Chair of the Master Planning Committee Mary Kronholm at blandford1@yahoo.com.

BUDGET BUSINESS



From left, Board of Appeals Chair Don Brainerd presented his budget request to Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia, Finance Committee Chair Janet Lombardo, and member Cathy Smelczar.

Photo by Mary Kronholm

ACCESS

from page 1

Julius Hall Road is a public way that passes through SWSC property. The road is not maintained by the town.

According to Town Administrator Joshua A. Garcia, the town will post signs indicating that the road is a public way but there will be no vehicular traffic, such as trucks or cars.

The board acted on accepting contracts; one with the Department of Revenue for \$15,000 to develop a wage and classification plan. The town has not yet accepted the necessary Massachusetts General Law to permit this activity.

A second contract is with the Department of Revenue for a \$20,000 Community Compact Grant for costs associated with the development of a capital improvement plan.

Chair Cara Letendre signed an annual report to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission confirming three licenses, their fees, and one 'alleged' violation in 2019 that resulted in a warning from the ABCC and no local action.

The board also authorized the Town Administrator and Treasurer/Collector to have control of a credit card for the town through the Business/Corporate Card with People's United Bank.

The board also accepted the report from the Animal Control Officer,

Theresa Donovan; one call mentioned was for a cat in a tree for seven days that was returned to its owner.

Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal asked that the select board look into the extension of the Families First Act with regard to extra compensation for employees due to COVID-19 related issues. The board directed Garcia to look into any benefits that might be available.

Senecal also reported that he had taken several photographs of the existing conditions under the turnpike overpass on Russell Stage Road to send to the Department of Transportation as the water/ice buildup "creates a safety hazard." He would like to see the DOT take responsibility for clearing the ice and find a permanent solution to the problem. There is water from the east-bound side of the Mass. Turnpike that creates the problem

Garcia told the board of upcoming grant opportunities with regard to digital needs of elderly, cultural humility training, and another to assist with fiber optic hook-up fees. He also reported that he had received several resumes for an Owners Project Manager for a new highway garage.

New Police Chief Tammy Weidhaas will be sworn in at a special ceremony during the Chester Selectboard meeting on Monday, Feb. 1, which is her official start day.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



www.newspapers.turley.com



# Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE Call us at 413.283.8393

**FOR SALE**

**ANTIQUE AND PERIOD CHAIRS** - Restored with new woven seats - Many styles and weaves available. Call **(413)289-6670**

**DISH TV - \$59.99** For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Call **1-877-925-7371**

**FOR SALE**

**MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY** performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**A PLACE FOR MOM.** The nation's largest senior living referral service. Contact our trusted, local experts today! Our service is FREE/no obligation. CALL **1-855-799-4127**

**FOR SALE**

**DEALING WITH WATER DAMAGE** requires immediate action. Local professionals that respond immediately. Nationwide and 24/7. No Mold Calls. **1-800-506-3367**

**DO YOU HAVE** chronic knee or back pain? If you have insurance, you may qualify for the perfect brace at little to no cost. Get yours today! Call **1-800-217-0504**

**FOR SALE**

**INVENTORS - FREE INFORMATION PACKAGE** Have your product idea developed affordably by the Research & Development pros and presented to manufacturers. Call **855-380-5976** for a free idea starter guide. Submit your idea for a free consultation.

**LIFE ALERT. 24/7.** One press of a button sends help FAST! Medical, Fire, Burglar. Even if you can't reach a phone! FREE brochure. CALL **800-457-1917**

**FOR SALE**

**MOBILEHELP, AMERICA'S PREMIER MOBILE MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM.** Whether you're Home or Away. For Safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! **1-844-892-1017**

**OXYGEN-ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.** No tanks to refill. No deliveries. Only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: Call **1-855-917-4693**

**STAY IN YOUR HOME** longer with an American Standard Walk-In Bath. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call us at **1-866-945-3783**.

**SERVICES**

**WE RENOVATE, SELL & PURCHASE** (any condition) horse drawn vehicles such as sleighs, carriages, surreys, wagons, dr's buggies, driveable or lawn ornaments. Some furniture and other restoration services available. Reasonable prices. Quality workmanship. Call **(413)213-0373** for estimate and information.

**DEMERS & SONS BELCHERTOWN, MA**



**CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES**  
For Full Accounting & Tax Service  
Registered Tax Return Preparer  
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082  
**413-967-8364**  
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

**Call For An Appointment**

**Income Tax Preparation**  
~ 31 years tax experience ~  
**Bruce J. Charwick**  
**(413) 283-5596**  
62 Jim Ash Road  
Palmer, MA 01069



**AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
588 Center Street  
Ludlow, MA 01056  
www.ajefinancial.com  
**(413)589-1671**  
We are here and ready for the 2020 tax filing season!  
Personal, Business, Corporate and Partnership tax filing.  
*Please give us a call at the office or visit our website for our COVID practices.*

**Kitchen Table Taxes**  
Personal & Small Business Tax Returns  
"David The Tax Man"  
**David E. Whitney**  
Enrolled Agent  
Sixty-Five Jim Ash Road  
Palmer, MA 01069-9814  
www.kitchentabletaxes.com  
Tel: **413-289-0058**  
Fax: **413-324-2167**  
Credit Cards Welcome  
kitchentabletaxes@gmail.com



Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here  
**CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!**

**FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER**

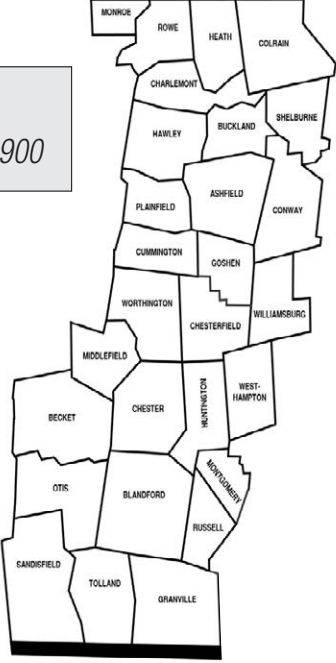
**MAIL TO:** Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call toll free: 413-283-8393

**DEADLINES:** HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**  
QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**

**CATEGORY:**

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 11,900



**Buy the Hilltowns ZONE for \$9.50 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.**  
**Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words

Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**

Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

☐ Hilltowns

☐ Suburban

☐ Quabbin

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



**WE RENOVATE, SELL & PURCHASE** (any condition) horse drawn vehicles such as sleighs, carriages, surreys, wagons, dr's buggies, driveable or lawn ornaments. Some furniture and other restoration services available. Reasonable prices. Quality workmanship. Call **(413)213-0373** for estimate and information.

**DEMERS & SONS BELCHERTOWN, MA**

**CHILD SERVICES**

**\*NEW STATE LAW.** Anyone advertising caring of children must list a license number to do so if they offer this service in their own home.


**HOME IMPROVEMENT**

**DELREO HOME IMPROVEMENT** for all your exterior home improvement needs. ROOFING, SIDING, WINDOWS, DOORS, DECKS & GUTTERS. Extensive references available, Fully Licensed & Insured in MA. & CT. Call GARY DELCAMP @ **413-569-3733**

**AUTO**

**CARS/TRUCKS WANTED!!!** All Makes/ Models 2000-2019! Any Condition, Running or Not. Top \$\$\$ Paid! Free Towing! We're Nationwide! Call Now: **1-888-513-1505**.

**REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**




**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**VACATION RENTALS**

**WARM WEATHER IS** Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.

**FOR RENT**



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



BECKET

Broadband projects heads toward final stages of work

By Shelby Macri

**BECKET** — The Selectboard members discussed the broadband project on Wednesday, Jan. 20, which looks to be a common topic for the town over the next few months as the final stages are finished.

The project is moving into the step where wires are being connected to poles, the fiber and network is being set up as well and will take a while. The board discussed the electrical hut, which will need to be set up as well. The hut is being connected soon, but requires materials from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

The board spoke about the connections needed in town including the Library, which has the needed connection and cables will need to connect to the Town Hall. As connections are being managed, the board also spoke about doing preliminary consultations for drops to residents in the near future. This has different costs and the topic of adding extra poles to reach residents who aren't signed up for broadband currently, but might want to join in the future.

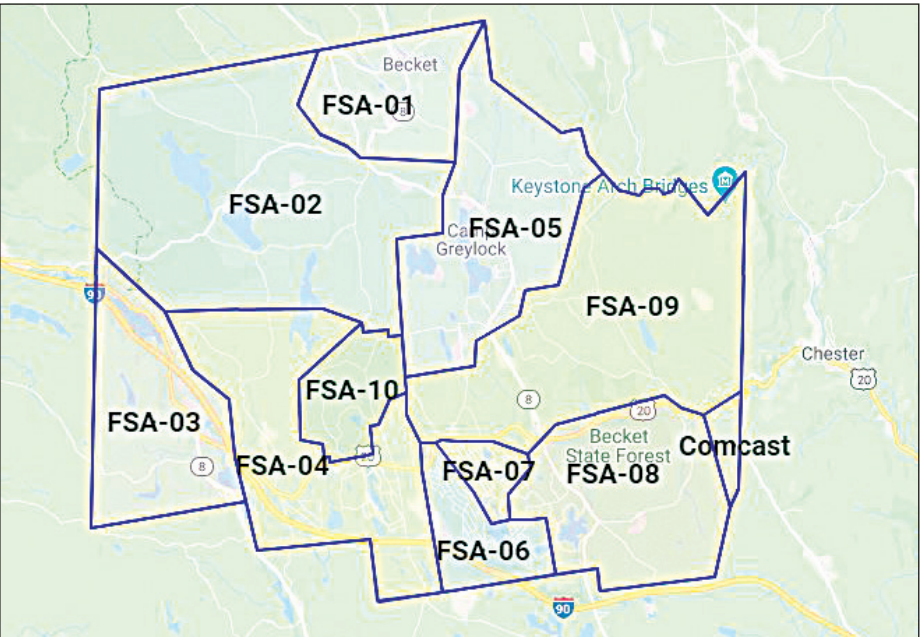
It would be more costly if these extra poles were set up after the project; the board discussed paying a slight extra cost now to add them now rather than paying more later. The board agreed it'd be better to do it now, so if someone

decides to join after seeing the completed network it'll be easier to add them. Costs for this work will be discussed at a future meeting.

Town Administrator William Caldwell explained the town's Municipal Light Board Manager is moving forwards with construction of Fiber Service Areas in town — the town into 10 different areas for managing fiber hookups. Construction in FSA Two was discussed to put fiber up, as well as contractors starting to put up strands in FSA One. These topics will have more details at the next board meeting when the policies are written up.

"No policies were voted on, but they were presented to the board," Caldwell said. "They discussed a couple policies which will be given to the board at the next meeting. They were regarding the payment process for drops and networks extensions."

Caldwell gave a report during the meeting where he gave the status of a few grants, as well as an update on starting the budget process. He talked about moving forward with tier two of the Complete Streets Grant, working with the towns Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness team to put together an MVP Action Grant, and possibly working on a Massworks Grant this upcoming summer or fall. Tier two of the Complete Streets Grant creates a prioritization plan



The town is divided into 10 Fiber Service Areas for managing the construction of fiber throughout the town.

Photo Courtesy of Becket Broadband

of projects for the town.

"Complete Streets is a grant program that looks at traffic patterns, sidewalks, rotaries, lighting, crosswalks, and bike lanes," Caldwell said. "It is more than just a paving program, so we are working with an engineer to get more information and see what we come up with."

The Complete Streets Grant will help with different topics, so the town needs to focus on what the town needs help with, while the MVP grant looks to mitigate climate related hazards. Though Caldwell is unsure of what project grant funds will go toward, he started the discussion with the board to get them prepared for future projects.

MONTGOMERY

COLD AND HOT



Liz Massa, Lyle Congdon, Kim Kelliher, and Russ LaPierre of the Hilltown Hikers gear up for a hike to English Grass Cave in Montgomery on a frigid 17-degrees Fahrenheit afternoon.



Peek-a-boo! Karen McTaggart and Ronnie peer around a rock in English Grass Cave.

Submitted photos



Inside the cave, the hikers found a lovely respite with 55-degree temperatures. Pictured, from left, are Kim Kellier, Russ LaPierre, and Lyle Congdon.

Kid's event features miniature 3D puppet theatre



Children can pick up a theatre craft kit at the Montgomery Library and build a theatre for hours of reusable entertainment.

Submitted photo

**MONTGOMERY** — The Montgomery Library is hosting a new craft and Zoom Program with Mary Jo Maichack, professional singer & storyteller, as seen on PBS and National Storytelling Network. Pick up a kit at the library to make this cute theatre — colors and design may vary.

Kids will make their own puppet theatre to play with over and over on Monday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m. on Zoom via Grace Hall Memorial Library. For Zoom login information, contact the library at [montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com).

Find all the latest additions to the library at Wowbrary. You can easily sign up at [wowbrary.org](http://wowbrary.org) for our weekly newsletter which delivers all the newest items right to your inbox.

The library has Appointment & Curbside Service on Tuesdays 10 to 5:30 pm, Thursdays 11 to 8 pm, Saturdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Just call or email at: [montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:montgomerylibrary@yahoo.com) or 413-862-3894.

Tell Us What You Think

Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers. Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

**Country Journal**  
Your Community Newspaper

[www.countryjournal.turley.com](http://www.countryjournal.turley.com)  
countryjournal@turley.com  
413.283.8393